



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

***Raised Bill No. 504***

LCO No. 1894

Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:  
(ET)

***An Act Establishing A Water Planning Council.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       (NEW) (a) There is established a Water Planning Council to study  
2       and make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning  
3       issues involving the state's water companies and define state policies  
4       regarding the future of the state's drinking water supply. Such issues  
5       shall include, but not be limited to, the financial viability, reliability of  
6       customer service, and competency of management of water  
7       companies, fair and reasonable rates, the diversion of state waters and  
8       maintaining the integrity of the state's waterways. The council shall  
9       work in conjunction with water companies, regional water authorities,  
10      and municipalities as well as with other agencies and entities to carry  
11      out its duties under this act.

12      (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

13      (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
14      committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
15      relating to energy and technology;

16       (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
17 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
18 relating to the environment;

19       (3) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
20 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
21 relating to public health;

22       (4) The chairperson of the Public Utility Control Authority, or the  
23 chairperson's designee;

24       (5) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the  
25 commissioner's designee;

26       (6) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
27 secretary's designee;

28       (7) The Consumer Counsel, or the Consumer Counsel's designee;  
29 and

30       (8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's  
31 designee.

32       (c) All appointments to the council shall be made no later than thirty  
33 days after the effective date of this act. Any vacancy shall be filled by  
34 the appointing authority.

35       (d) All members of the council shall be nonvoting members with the  
36 exception of the members of the General Assembly. The members of  
37 the council shall serve without compensation. The chairpersons of the  
38 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
39 of matters relating to energy and technology shall serve as the  
40 chairpersons of the council. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first  
41 meeting of the council, which shall be held no later than sixty days  
42 after the effective date of this act. In the absence of such chairpersons,  
43 another voting member may convene a meeting of the council. The  
44 voting members of the council may appoint additional advisory,

45 nonvoting members to the council and may employ such staff and  
46 incur such expenses, within the resources set forth in section 2 of this  
47 act, as required to carry out the purposes of this act. The Department  
48 of Public Utility Control and the Department of Environmental  
49 Protection may make available technical staff to further assist the  
50 council as required.

51 (e) The council shall, not later than January 1, 2001, and annually  
52 thereafter until January 1, 2003, report its findings and proposed  
53 legislative changes to the joint standing committee of the General  
54 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and  
55 technology, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
56 general statutes. The council shall terminate on the date that it submits  
57 its final report or January 1, 2003, whichever is earlier.

58 Sec. 2. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to  
59 the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, from the General  
60 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, for the purposes set forth  
61 in subsection (d) of section 1 of this act.

62 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect from its passage.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To establish a water council to study and make recommendations concerning issues involving the state's water companies and define state policies regarding the future of the state's drinking water supply.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*